



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS ANNOUNCES UPCOMING HIGHWAY 99 REHABILITATION PROJECT IN MADERA COUNTY

Project could be completed a year sooner using innovative construction method.

Fresno-Caltrans has begun construction on the \$33 million Madera 99 Freeway Rehabilitation Project in Madera County. This project is the first Caltrans project to use design-build, an innovative construction method that could shave a year off of the project's schedule.

"Highway 99 is the transportation backbone of the Central Valley," said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "It is important to the entire state as a major corridor of commerce and is a critical route for shipping agricultural goods to market."

The design-build method streamlines a project by replacing previously sequential phases, with overlapping design and construction phases, which moves the project ahead more quickly than using the traditional method. It is a federally-approved method that has been used successfully by numerous other states, as well as local agencies in California.

The project covers a 3.5-mile stretch from near the Madera Overcrossing to the Avenue 16 overcrossing and will reconstruct the freeway lanes and shoulders by using construction methods that will result in less pavement cracking and damage from water penetration. Guardrail, lights, signs and drainage will be upgraded or repaired as needed. The rehabilitation project is expected to improve pavement condition and extend service life along various sections of SR-99.

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